

REMARKS

In the Office Action of September 2, 2004, claims 1-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,096,207 to Seeh et al. ("Seeh").

Applicant respectfully submits that Seeh fails to disclose each element of Applicant's independent claims 1 and 26. For example, these independent claims both recite, "a first elastomeric protrusion extending generally between the radially extending sleeve portion and the faceplate portion and including a base and an end generally opposite the base and oriented generally radially towards the longitudinal axis of the shaft."

In rejecting Applicant's claims, the Examiner asserts that feature 13' of Seeh's FIG. 2 meets the quoted claim language. However, as can be understood from FIG. 2 below, the base [A] (i.e., the portion of Seeh's so-called first elastomeric protrusion that is attached to a metallic portion of Seeh's seal) is located radially inward from either of the corresponding ends [B] [C]. Thus, it is clear that FIG. 2 of Seeh fails to disclose "a first elastomeric protrusion ... including ... **an end** generally opposite the base and **oriented generally radially towards the longitudinal axis of the shaft**." If anything, Seeh's ends [B] [C] are oriented radially away from the longitudinal axis of the shaft. For at least this reason, Seeh fails to disclose each and every element of Applicant's independent claims 1 and 26 and their respective dependent claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejections based on Seeh.

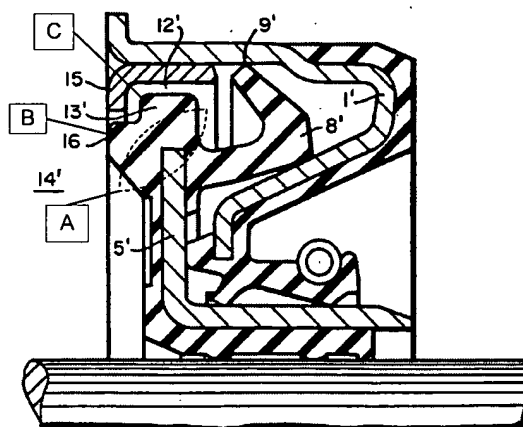


FIG.2

This Amendment is submitted contemporaneously with a petition for a two-month extension of time in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.136(a). Accordingly, a check in the amount of \$450.00, for two-month extension of time fee, is enclosed. The Applicant believes no further

fees or petitions are required. However, if any such petitions or fees are necessary, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 accordingly.

This application now stands in allowable form and reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Dated: 1-27-05.

Respectfully submitted,



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